

## A circular ink stamp from the Smithsonian Institution. The text "Smithsonian Institution" is curved along the top inner edge, and "National Zoological Park" is curved along the bottom inner edge. In the center, the date "AUG 26 1920" is stamped in a straight line.

# MENAGERIE MAGAZINE.

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# JOHN D. HAMLYN,

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## Arrivals of Wild Animals in Great Britain.

Commencing January, 1920.

COMPILED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN.

### DROMEDARIES.

The S.S. "Petworth" arriving on or about the 8th August has seven Dromedaries, eight boxes Birds, two boxes Snakes, one box Chameleons, five boxes Squirrels, two boxes Lizards, one box Jackals, all in charge of Mr. J. H. B. Vice who has collected same in Mogader, Morocco.

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# Hamlyn's Menagerie Magazine

EDITED BY JOHN D. HAMLYN



No. 3.—Vol. 6.

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## Notice.

The subscription for Vol. VI., 1920—21, is 10/- post free. Yearly subscriptions only received. Specimen copies can be sent post free on receipt of twelve penny stamps. Subscribers not receiving their Magazine should communicate at once with the Editor.

All letters to be addressed in future:—

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The Editor will be pleased to receive sporting articles and reminiscences, as well as items of news and reports of sport from all parts of the world. If stamped directed envelope be enclosed, the contributions will be returned if unsuitable.



## The Trade.

By JOHN D. HAMLYN.

I have already stated in the Price List accompanying this Magazine, that price of Australian Storks would be shortly reduced, and, that there would be arrivals from time to time at normal prices. Such has been the case during the past week. King Parrots, Penants, White Cockatoos, Rose Cockatoos, with a few Gouldians; all have been sold at reasonable prices. Other stocks are on the way. There is, therefore, no need to purchase any of the French stock at their inflated prices.

South African consignments are arriving weekly, prices naturally falling; in fact I have offered 500 mixed South African Finches at 8/- each all round, without finding buyers. Parti-

culars are given in this issue of a wonderful consignment of African stock, which left Durban last month for New York. I hear that the losses and expenses on this consignment have been enormous. The consignment has been brought about by the Director of Bronz Park, who one desire is to *eliminate* the dealer. It was not always so. The Zoological Gardens of the World have everything to be thankful for to the various dealers for shewing the enterprise to obtain the specimens at present in their Gardens. And they may be glad of their services again. There has also been a consignment from Calcutta, brought over by that well-known amateur, Mr. E. W. Harper, the major portion of which was sold to the Zoo.

It is really surprising the number of amateurs who turn dealers in this Trade.

For a time fortune favors them, after which it spells disaster.

But the harm they do the harmless necessary dealer is great. Still, I have survived during the past forty years over a dozen such individuals, and, doubtless shall survive the present day amateur dealers.

At the present moment I have four collectors out abroad, a greater number than any British dealer ever had. One in North Africa, one in South Africa, one in Brazil, and one in the United States. These collectors do not add to the gaiety of one's life, and, considering that I shall be sixty-five on the 5th of August, I consider it is something to be proud of, to be able to manage, direct, and finance all these. In closing, I might say, that my ambition to control the animal world is passed. I leave it to a younger man. The obstacles which one has to surmount were never heard or dreamt of years ago. Fresh rules and regulations meet you at every turn. It should be under-

stood that the animal business cannot carry on unless it has the assistance and sympathy of all officials, Governmental, Customs, Shipping and Transport; without their aid the business is a burden and worry to any man. Still, I have been fifty years a Naturalist, and, even to-day, despite my worries, I would not change places with any man.

JOHN D. HAMLYN.

### South African Consignment for Bronx Park, New York.

Particulars of 93 boxes which left Durban on the S.S. "Chinese Prince," on 12th July, 1920. Collected by the Director of the Zoological Gardens, Pretoria.

1 Giraffe	1 Wild Boar
3 Brindled Gnus	3 Porcupines
3 Leechwee Antelopes	1 Hunting Dog
2 Sable "	2 Dingoes
2 Koodoo "	2 Cape Jackals
3 Eland "	1 Spring Hare
6 Blessbok "	2 Genet Cats
5 Springbok "	1 Civet Cat
1 Duiker "	1 Yellow Mongoose
1 Klippespringer "	3 Brown "
1 Gemsbok	6 Chacma Baboons
2 Black Mongeese	3 Rhodesian "
2 Polecats	2 Honey Badgers
2 Suricates	2 Night Apes
1 Goshawk	2 Crested Barbets
2 Rollers	4 Meyers Parrakeets
1 Cape Pheasant	6 Rosey-faced Love
5 Mouse Birds	6 Rock Pigeons
6 Ring Doues	4 Batileur Eagles
1 Catshrike	2 Fish "
2 White-bellied Stork	2 Crested "
2 Stanley Cranes	1 Hawk "
1 Crowned Crane	2 Vultures
1 Secretary Crane	1 White-headed Vulture
11 Tortoises, Turtles	1 Kolbs
9 Francolins	1 Python
8 Hornbills	11 Lizards
2 Ducks (various)	6 Babbling Thrushes
2 Mountain Zebras	2 Cape Owls
3 Burchell's Zebras	

### The American Bison Society.

By JOHN D. HAMLYN.

In association and with the assistance of Dr. E. W. Nelson of the Biological Survey,

we have sent our Secretary, Mr. Garretson, who accompanied Dr. Geo. W. Field of the Biological Survey, to eastern Oregon, and found that practically the last remaining wild herd of antelope were near extermination. The report of these gentlemen will be printed in the year book and is now in the press and is being printed through the co-operation, and at the expense of the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund, of which Dr. Hornaday is the Senior trustee. Due credit will be given for this in the printed report.

I also suggest that a resolution be made covering the Association's activities and leadership in having established in south-eastern Oregon and north-western Nevada a reservation or harborage for the antelope and sage grouse, practically sixty miles long by twenty miles wide, and that your officers be authorised to go ahead and associate in this campaign other societies and game protection associations, and get all the assistance possible to co-operate with the Governments in the establishment of this reservation, both nationally and by the States of Oregon and Nevada.

In association with American Game Protection Association, the Camp-Fire Club of America and the National Parks Association, your President sent a telegram to the Governor of Montana requesting him to stop the slaughter of the elk. This matter is a very serious one at the present time. Your officers have had various conferences with Hon. E. W. Nelson of the Biological Survey, Dr. Geo. W. Field of the same department, and Mr. Horace M. Albright, the superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park, in this matter, and we are working in entire co-operation. Owing to the severe winter, there has been great danger of the National elk herd starving. The leadership in the matter of providing hay has been taken by the Biological Survey and Forestry Service, and much good work has been done by them and the National Parks Association. Your President suggests that a resolution be passed authorising the officers of our Society to co-operate in every way possible to assist the Government and the National Parks Association in the saving of the elk from starvation this winter and in acquiring additional lands for winter grazing grounds for them in the future, and do all things necessary and proper in the premises on behalf of the Society.

The utmost harmony prevails in the Society. Our membership holds strong, which shows

there is a real demand for uncommercial and true conservation of our wild life. Thanks are due to the very valuable constructive advice and assistance rendered on demand from our Vice-Presidents Dr. Hornaday and Carl K. McFadden. Thanks are also due for the excellent work of our Secretary and Treasurer. I wish also to mention our Assistant Treasurer, Mr. W. C. Robertson, who has so ably performed the Treasurer's duties while Mr. Williams was serving his country in France.

Respectfully submitted,

EDMUND SEYMOUR,  
*President.*

#### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Society, two new Government herds have been established. One by the U.S. Biological Survey in Oklahoma and the other by the Bison Society in the Pisgah National Forest and Game Preserve in North Carolina. A full report on the establishing of this herd will appear elsewhere.

The Census of 1918 show eight (8) Government-owned herds with a total of eight hundred and ninety-one (891) animals, and in all throughout the United States, three thousand one hundred and nineteen (3119) buffalo. In Canada there are four thousand two hundred and forty-three (4243), making a total of seven thousand three hundred and sixty-one (7361) pure-blood bison in North America.

The Census as of January 1, 1920, is about completed and will appear in the Annual Report.

A number of letters were sent abroad during the past year in view of ascertaining the present condition of the few remaining herds of European bison. Very little information of an authentic nature can be had, but it appears that if not completely exterminated, they have been reduced to a pitifully small number. The herd owned by Count Potocki and kept in a very large park according to the French writer, M. Grandidier, were exterminated by the Bolsheviki, for in their policy of extermination, bison could not be owned by everybody, therefore must be owned by nobody, and so the famous herd was slaughtered, together with all other rare animals found on the estate.

The largest herd of European bison, numbering about seven hundred (700), was in the great forest of Byelovitsa in Lithuania and was

carefully preserved by the late Czar, but during the three years of military occupation the forest was practically destroyed by the Germans, but the bison, as far as possible, were officially protected. This official protection no doubt prevented immediate extermination, but many deserters and others hiding in the forest, on the verge of starvation, did not hesitate to kill the bison, whenever and wherever found, so in this manner the herd has been reduced, according to the latest report, to one hundred and eighty (180).

In a letter received from Dr. Einar Lonnberg of Stockholm, Sweden, he states that it is reported the bison in the Caucasus have suffered a like fate.

The Society made an especial effort during the past year towards saving the last and largest band of wild antelope in the United States. At a meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided to send the Secretary, in company with Dr. George W. Field of the Biological Survey, to south-eastern Oregon for the purpose of exploring the territory ranged over by the antelope, and to make a careful count of the number found thereon, also to report on the desirability of an antelope range and sage grouse reservation in that particular locality. A full report by the Secretary on his investigation and count of the antelope will be found elsewhere.

Mr. J. B. Harkin, Commissioner of Parks, Canada, and who is also a member of our Board of Managers, has related some interesting facts in regard to the antelope in Canada.

Mr. Harkin states that by an actual count taken two years ago there were about six hundred (600) antelope in the Province of Alberta and the majority of these are in an area containing about a township and a half which was set aside as an antelope reserve in 1914. This reserve is known as the Canyon Antelope Reserve and is situated in the Medicine Hat District, Alberta. It is bounded on the south and east sides by the South Saskatchewan River.

The Nemiskam Antelope Reserve contains about five thousand (5,000) acres and is situated forty-two (42) miles southwest of Medicine Hat and thirty-six miles north of the international boundary. This reserve is entirely fenced with a coyote and antelope-proof fence, erected in 1915. At that time there were forty-two antelope in this enclosure. This area was chosen



by the antelope and the fence was then quietly built around them. These forty-two antelope have increased since then to about ninety (90), and as this reserve contains all vegetation and saline deposits needed by the antelope, no cases of actinomycosis or lump jaw or any other disease has so far appeared among them.

(To be continued).

## When Liverpool Had a Zoo.

This is a town of adventure and has bred may mute inglorious Robinson Crusoes. One adventurer belonging to Liverpool bore the popular name of Thomas Atkins. He was born in 1704 and died on the 6th June, 1848.

Thomas Atkins was very successful in collecting beasts and birds, and on the 27th of May, 1833, he founded the Liverpool Zoological Gardens in West Derby Road. They were ten acres in extent, and very attractively laid out. There was a nice little theatre capable of holding about six hundred people, a dancing platform, good bands, all sorts of beasts, wild and tame, a great lake, and fireworks every night. A mimic city of forts was built at the back of the lake, and the evening's entertainment finished with a representation of a battle. Sometimes it was the siege of Acre, the taking of the Regan, or the Siege of Delhi (writes *Historious* in the "Liverpool Echo.")

The Grand Centrifugal Railway was one of the great attractions, for you travelled on it at the rate of 100 miles an hour and looped the loop on the journey. You ascended a staircase in a tower about 90ft. in height and entered a small car, after which the attendant fastened you in by placing an apron over you which covered you from your chin to your feet. After you were strapped in, the attendant sent the car down a declined plane; then you ascended the vertical circle, which was about 40ft in circumference; having gone round the wheel and been upside down you speed on another incline plane, and passing over a bridge eventually came down quite gently to the gardens. I think that the total length of the railway would be about a 1,000ft. The fare was 6d. The sensation was similar to the one experienced in the "eighties" when you travelled on the switchback railway.

Sometimes an exhibition was given. First a pail of water was placed in the car and the

water was unspilt; then a hundredweight of metal was sent on a journey, and the weight was unmoved. I must have seen hundreds of human beings use it, and though they passed round the upright circle, head over heels, performing a complete somersault, they were never injured.

When the founder and proprietor passed away, the gardens were owned by his widow and two of the sons, John and E. Atkins. They owned a fine elephant, "Rajah," 35 years old, a great favourite and renowned for his gentleness and courtesy when carrying passengers.

On the 17th of June, 1848, "Rajah" killed his keeper, Richard Howard, with whom he had always been very friendly. The keeper was cleaning the stable, and wanted the elephant to move, so he hit him with the broom. "Rajah" did not move. Then the keeper hit him a second time, whereupon he turned on the keeper, knocked him down, trampled on him, and broke every bone in his body. The proprietors decided that "Rajah" must be put to death, so they interviewed the mayor and the stipendiary magistrate, and obtained their advice and assistance.

Dr. O'Donnell and some other medical men endeavoured to administer poison, two ounces of prussic acid and 25 grains of aconite, mixed with treacle and served on a bun. "Rajah" swallowed the lot, and though he seemed uncomfortable he very soon recovered, and walked about apparently quite well. Then thirty riflemen — of the 60th Rifles — were brought, and two field pieces. Twelve of the soldiers fired, and still "Rajah" stood, then twelve more soldiers fired, and he fell dead.

The proprietors had the good taste to exclude the public on this day of trouble. When one remembers that they often had thirteen to fourteen thousand visitors in a day the loss must have been very great.

Charles Blondin, the celebrated rope-walker, performed many times in the gardens. I saw him for the first time in 1861, when he was at the height of his fame, having crossed Niagara Falls on a rope 1,100 feet long and 160 feet above the water. He was very wonderful, he carried a man on his back, wheeled a barrow, walked on stilts, and even went blind-folded. The last time I saw him was in 1881 at Eastham Gardens, where he walked on a low rope. He was born at St.

Omer, France, in 1824, and died at Ealing, London, in 1897.

The gardens were closed about 1866, and the land was soon covered with houses. Farnworth Street, Boaler Street, and West Derby Street may be said to cover the boundaries.



## Farming The North American Caribou.

The Illustrated Sporting and, Dramatic News has a most interesting article on the above. The writer (H. Mortimer Batten) gives the fullest particulars of the scheme, which I am sure will interest all my readers.

From the Alaskan boundry line to the shores of the Hudson Bay there exists a vast territory known as the Arctic Prairies—about a million square miles—which has long been written off as of no value to man. This region is commonly known as the Barrens of the North-West Territory, and consists of a wilderness of rocks, snow and endless tiny lakes, where summer reigns for about three months in the year, and where the rank vegetation serves only to supply thousands of musk oxen and the greatest herds of animals in the world—namely, the herds of barren land caribou. These have estimated at thirty million head, and the word “herds” is somewhat misleading. The caribou exists, not in mere scattered groups but in vast armies, ranging from one million in a group to perhaps a dozen million.

As in the barren lands of Labrador, these animals migrate with seasons, and prospectors and traders sometimes bear stories to civilisation of the romance of these great migrations. They tell how for days and nights on end, the whole vast landscape as far as the eye could reach is grey with the drifting hosts, every animal moving northwards or southwards in accordance with the promptings of the season.

When a year ago the world was experiencing its pangs of post-war hunger, the well-known explorer, Vilhjalmur Stefannson, took the floor of the Canadian Houses of Parliament and put forward proposition which naturally created great interest, for he pointed out that this vast belt of waste country could be rendered capable of producing meat supplies almost equivalent to Australia. The explorer's speech was listened to with deep attention and so much have the

sidelights and footlights of civilisation shifted during recent years that no proposition, even though five years ago it might have been regarded as one of utter folly, was now too fantastic to prove credible. Stefannson, it will be recalled, established a new system of Arctic exploration, that of living off the country carrying little or no white man's provisions which require great trains of dogs and many men. He is acquainted with the barren lands in every aspect of the seasons, having spent six years in the midst of this region which he regards as one of brimming lakes, verdant uplands, and flower-strewn meadows. He pointed out that this prolific growth affords sufficient and the right food for the gigantic herds of wild beasts that inhabit it, and that the time had come to put these teeming millions to some practical use.

That the domestication of the caribou is not only possible, but highly practicable, has already been proved. At the present time the animals of the North West Territory are, of course, too remote from civilisation for any means of transportation to be established, but this was not an insurmountable difficulty. There was plenty of barren land, so called, nearer civilisation, which would support the animals as well as their old habitat. For twenty-seven years the caribou in Alaska have been raised and domesticated by the natives, and the same state of affairs has existed in Siberia since time immemorial—in that country caribou—the smaller breed—being known as reindeer. A group of Siberian reindeer were imported from Russia to Alaska twenty-seven years ago by the United States Government at the suggestion of Dr. Sheldon Jackson, at an initial cost of two hundred and forty thousand dollars. The Government farmed out the animals to the natives and the mission stations on a co-operative basis, and the experiment proved from the first an unqualified success. To-day the herds have reached the grand total of 85,000 head, and the natives, no longer a half-starved and wretched people dependant on hunting conditions which vary with the seasons, are well clothed, well fed, and well housed.

Stefannson pointed out that if such things are possible in Alaska, they are possible on an even greater scale in Canada, and by this synthetic reasoning he concluded that the barren lands of the North-West Territory could be made profitable to the Dominion.

The house brought in a favourable report from the explorer's scheme, and expressed their readiness to promote the undertaking. Melville Island was suggested as a good base from which to start, and it was intended for the time being to deal only with the caribou, though the musk ox are similarly capable of domestication. Their numbers, however have decreased considerably during recent years, owing to the hunting activities of the Indians and the Eskimo, and the ranching of these animals presented difficulties not so easily surmounted. At the same time the musk ox is a valuable beast, as it possesses a heavy under-wool, which is of very high quality, and which is supposed to rival that of the Kashmir goat.

Following Stefannson's speech which was made in May, the proposition was speedily forgotten by most of those who had read the reports with so much interest. Then, during the last week of last November, the news came from the little town of La Pas, on the Hudson Bay Railway, in Northern Manitoba, of the formation of the "North American Reindeer Company." The company is capitalised at 750,000 dollars, probably the biggest ranching concern that has ever existed, and though the personnel has not as yet been given out, it is known that some of the biggest bankers and financial men of Canada and the United States are concerned in the scheme.

The syndicate has leased from the Canadian Government at four cents an area of 75,850 square miles in the Hudson Bay Territory north of Churchill River. The company, in addition, is to give to the Canadian Government one-twentieth of the total of its yearly herds, and those animals are to be turned over to the Eskimo and Indians of the of the territory, thus making them safe against starvation in times when other game fails; also it is hoped that the scheme will place the natives in the way of making additional money, for the caribou, besides yielding good milk and meat, possess excellent hides, which in civilisation is worth five dollars a pound.

Moreover, the caribou has other uses. As a beast of burden it is far more superior to dogs owing to its great strength, and owing particularly to the fact that it can live on the land. The animal is possessed of huge spreading hoofs, which enable it to negotiate the deepest drifts without sinking, and it goes without saying that one caribou would be capable easily of drawing a sledge which would require a whole team of dogs.

The first undertaking of the great scheme is one which, considering the vastness of the territory concerned, and the vastness of the herds to be handled, seems almost incredible, and only those who have had anything to do with the driving of wild deer will appreciate the difficulties it presents. Deer of all kinds, particularly the caribou, adhere to one un-wavering law—that the herd must follow its leader. If the leader turns, then the rest follow, and no obstacle will check the headlong plunge that ensues. Yet the new company intend to drive the vast herds of reindeer over land from Alaska to the Churchill River country, a distance of 2,000 miles, consisting chiefly of utter wilderness, over the main portion of which the feet of white men have never yet been set. If this undertaking is successful it will stand out as by far the most remarkable achievement of its kind in the history of the world.

H. MORTIMER BATTEN.

## Report on the Zoological Service

for the Years 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918,

By MAJOR S. FLOWER.

### I.—PREFACE.

#### I.—DUTIES OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SERVICE.

The duties of the Zoological Service are threefold:—

1. Giving *technical assistance* to other Government services in the ever-increasing number of questions in which the animal kingdom is found to be involved, especially in matters of public health, agriculture, and fisheries.

2. *Conservation*, not only of the actual fauna of the country, but of all records and observations bearing on the subject, for the benefit of future generations.

3. *Public Instruction*, by properly labelled collections of specimens, both alive in Zoological Gardens and Aquariums and preserved in the exhibition halls of Museums, and by lectures, classes, and the answering of questions received from individual members of the people.

"In this instance, as in the case of the other sciences, the man of science endeavours to acquire and pass on abstract knowledge, which the man of affairs can confidently apply in the daily business of practical life."



Sir Richard C. Temple, Bart., C.I.E., used the above words in his address on the "Administrative Value of Anthropology" at the British Association meeting at Birmingham in 1913; they can be equally applied to Zoology.

## 2.—ACTIVITIES OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SERVICE.

The present activities of the Zoological Service may be divided into :—

- 1 The Zoological Survey of Egypt.
- 2 The Giza Zoological Gardens.
- 3 The Gezira Aquarium.
- 4 The Giza Zoological Museum.
- 5 The preservation of the natural fauna of Egypt.
- 6 Direct public instruction.
- 7 Minor activities.

The Zoological Survey is the most importance part of the work, as on the accuracy of this the value of the other activities must depend.

The two institutions at Cairo, the Giza Zoological Gardens and the Gezira Aquarium, may be considered as the "outward and visible sign" of the "inward and scientific work" of the Zoological Service. The collections of live animals enable many important observations to be made on animals in a state of liberty. The information thus gradually collected is likely to be considered of much more general value in the future than at present.

The Zoological Gardens and Aquarium, moreover, appeal to the public. They help to stimulate and foster in the people a love for animals and plants, and to promote the science of biology, not only in bringing the public into touch with the many beautiful forms of life which inhabit the earth, but also by providing the amateur naturalist, the artist, and the sculptor with material to further their respective tastes and studies.

The functions of these Gardens are therefore chiefly educational; but to attain these ends it is necessary to arrange the collection and care for the beautiful grounds which the government has devoted to the purpose in such a manner as to render the Gardens a resort where healthful, peaceful recreation as well as instruction may be obtained.

## General Notes.

By JOHN D. HAMLYN.

THAT the Home Secretary has appointed a committee to advise the Home Office on matters connected with the administration of the Wild Birds Protection Acts. The committee consists of the Duke of Rutland, (chairman) Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, secretary of the British Ornithologists' Union; Dr. Percy R. Lowe of the Natural History Museum; Mr. H. G. Maurice of the Ministry of Agriculture; and Mr. Montague Sharpe, K.C., chairman of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

THAT the following has been sent from South Africa :—

Lt. Commander E. H. Ward, R.N., who is farming near Addo Drift has had the good fortune to shoot a 1,000 pound buffalo under most trying conditions. He formed a party and late on Saturday night motored through the bush for five miles, and on foot cut his way through to a pool known by one his assistants as the drinking place of his quarry. But nothing rewarded his icy vigil, so pitching camp he made preparations for an early start next morning. The party soon came upon the spoor of a buffalo, and followed it through the dense bush. Rain came on soon after the start, and the hunters were soon drenched but stuck to the spoor, and at 2 p.m., sighted their game, which Commander Ward despatched with an excellent shot.

THAT "The Times" correspondent give the following interesting account of the birth of a chimpanzee.

On July 14th, a trained chimpanzee in the Bronx Zoological Park, New York, gave birth to a single female infant. This is believed to be the second occasion in which a chimpanzee has ever bred in captivity, and there are no recorded cases of oranges or gorillas ever having so bred.

The father and mother, known as "Boma" and "Susette," have been in Bronx Park for more than a year. Their exact ages are unknown, as they were both caught as young wild animals in West Africa, but it is probable that they are over 12 and not more than 16 years old. The two monkeys have shared the same cage, and it was the excited screams of the male that drew the attention

of the keepers to what had taken place. The mother and her baby were removed to a quiet cage, where they will be kept from the public for at least a week. The baby weighs 3 lb. and is about 16 in. long, and appears to be healthy, although it was born before it was expected. The mother at once made a pile of straw in the corner of her new cage and went to sleep with the infant on her breast.

No accurate observations have ever been made on the infancy of anthropoid apes, and and if this young ape is reared successfully, interesting scientific results should be obtained. There is much less difference between very young apes and human infants than between adults, the distinctive characters of apes and of the human race developing with growth.

THAT a white specimen of *Mus rattus* (the old English black rat) caught in Bristol, is now in my possession. It has black eyes. This is certainly a great rarity, and I am anxious to obtain an ordinary *M. rattus* to mate with it.—H. C. Brooke, Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

THAT during the visit of Bostock and Wombwell's show to Paignton, an attendant named Docking (a native of Topsham) was leading an elephant to bathe in the sea, when the animal turned on him, threw him down, knelt on him and prodded him. Docking sustained several broken ribs and a lung was penetrated by a tusk. He was rescued in the nick of time and conveyed to Paignton Hospital.

THAT Clara a clever Chimpanzee at the Clifton Zoo who uses a fork for food and performs many tricks is the delight of many visitors to that well known Zoological Gardens.

THAT under the auspices of the Zoological Society of Scotland a lecture on "Hill Birds of Scotland" was delivered last night in the United Free Assembly Hall Edinburgh, by Mr. Seton Gordon, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Lord Salvesen presided over a large audience. Mr Gordon's lecture was illustrated by means of an exceptionally fine series of photographs of the birds in their natural surroundings. The photographs were taken by Mr Gordon, and were illustrative of the difficulties which he had to contend with before satisfactory results could be attained

the majority being taken at heights varying between 1500 and 4000 ft. above sea level. In dealing with eagles, he illustrated the growth of the birds from the day they left the eggs till they were able to leave their nest in the rocks or in trees and come to the ground. One particularly interesting photograph was that which showed clearly what Mr Gordon described as its "third eyelid," with which he believed it cleaned its eye. Many eagles built their nests on the mountain tops, and they had been known to carry branches as far as ten miles to build their eyries. Mr Gordon next dealt with the ptarmigan. It was very difficult to get them to leave their nests, he said, and on one occasion when he photographed a sitting bird his camera was blown over, but in spite of the fact that the bird was hit, it refused to leave the nest. Gulls waged war on the ptarmigan, and on one occasion he saw the surface of a loch littered with eggs which had been sucked dry by the gulls. The ptarmigan invariably nested above the heather belt, said Mr. Gordon, and he described the precautions which it took to safeguard itself from enemies by remaining near the patches of snow. The habits of the snow bunting and the dotterel, both of which are rare in Scotland, were also fully described, as were the peregrine, falcon, and the crested tit. It was a curious thing, he said, that the falcon never preyed on birds in the vicinity of its nest, but always went further afield. At the close of his address, Mr Gordon was accorded a cordial vote of thanks.

THAT the ravages of the tsetse fly in Zulu-land have resulted in a decision to hold an enormous game drive (say the Central News from Johannesburg.)

The drive will begin on August 15 and will last for some days.

Hundreds of sportsmen from all parts of the country will participate.

THAT members of the Plymouth Town Council at yesterday's meeting sought information as to the cause of the supply of electric current being cut off one day last week, with the result that the system was held up for an hour. Alderman Love, chairman of the Electricity Committee, explained that at one of the generating stations a large conger eel got into the force pump and choked it.

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